

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – September 25, 2023

Cider Mill School is a Community of Learners, ALL committed to being the best we can be.

### Important Dates

<b>Sept 25</b>	No School in Celebration of Yom Kippur
<b>Sept 27</b>	School Picture Day
<b>Oct 3</b>	Flu Clinic 3:15 - 4:30 pm
<b>Oct 5</b>	BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
<b>Oct 6</b>	Early Release for Students/Professional Learning for Teachers
<b>Oct 9</b>	No School in Celebration of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
<b>Oct 10</b>	No School for Students/Professional Learning for Teachers
<b>Oct 12</b>	Cider Mill Walkathon
<b>Oct 19</b>	BOE Meeting 7:30 pm

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone is having a relaxing and enjoyable weekend! It is unfortunate that Mother Nature did not cooperate with us for our **Outdoor Movie Night**, but there will be a rescheduled movie night, please keep an eye out for details!

A reminder that **Picture Day is Wednesday, September 27th**. Individual and class photos will be taken. A big thank you to all of those who volunteered to help make this day a success! Please remember to check your time slot and a reminder will be sent out the day before.

Our third-grade students enjoyed a morning of **Drum Circle** fun this past week as part of **Cider Mill's enrichment program**. The morning was hosted by Musical IQ and I am sure a drumming good time was had by all!

We are about to launch **Cider Mill's annual Walkathon Fundraiser!** On **October 12**, all houses will walk the Wilton High School track to the sounds of music, cheers, and parent support. The Cider Mill PTA relies on the donations from this fundraiser to continue to provide activities such as enrichment, teacher grants, hospitality events, and more. Last year we were able to provide grants to replace the damaged library books, money to get The Hive started, and more! Please check your email and Facebook for more information this week!

The **Outdoor Learning Garden** is looking for some help! If you can spare some time on **September 28**, bring your gloves and shovels to help get the garden ready for planting. More information can be seen below!

Please see the links below for info that will be helpful this school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [carolinehavlin@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinehavlin@hotmail.com)

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman  
Cider Mill PTA Co-Presidents

### Helpful Links

#### Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

CM Attendance: (203) 834-4950 or [cmattend@wiltonps.org](mailto:cmattend@wiltonps.org)

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINy/edit>

CM Community Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/>

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf)

WPS Back to School Website: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342738\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2)

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342735\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2)

CM Interactive Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/576928\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3)

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: [https://wiltonps.org/338734\\_2](https://wiltonps.org/338734_2)

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: [https://www.wiltonps.org/575955\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3)

Wilton PowerSchool Login: <https://wilton.powerschool.com/public/>

ParentSquare Information: [https://wiltonps.org/595543\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/595543_3)

Schoology Information: [https://wiltonps.org/576129\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/576129_3)

Special Bus Assignments: [https://wiltonps.org/579910\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/579910_3)

MySchoolBucks: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>

School Lunch Menus: <https://wilton.nutrislice.com/menu/menus-eula>

Join Wilton SEPTA: <https://www.wiltonsepta.org/>

## School News

### **Cider Mill PTA Needs YOU!**

The Cider Mill PTA works hard to ensure enjoyment for its teachers and students, as well as providing funding for many enrichment programs and grants. We still have many areas where we can use some help! Please email [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) if you are interested!

### **The following positions are still open:**

#### **VP Fundraising – or a fundraising group**

The PTA runs events throughout the year that can use someone with great organizational skills, or even a group to work together to make these happen! These include our walkathon, ice skating night, snowball dance, and more.

#### **Spirit Wear Chair**

Cider Mill is proud to see its students walking the halls in their house colors! The Spirit Wear Chair would monitor orders and distribute as well as help sell at events and secure new inventory.

#### **Hot Cider Co-Editor**

Hot Cider is our bi-monthly newsletter full of Cider Mill info, events, and community happenings. The co-editor would be responsible for every other month, updating the information in Word and then sending it out via ParentSquare.

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**Cider Mill Movie Night to be Rescheduled!**

Due to inclement weather, **Cider Mill’s Outdoor Movie Night has been postponed**. Plans are underway for rescheduling, and tickets will be honored at the rescheduled event. Thank you for your understanding and for supporting the Cider Mill PTA. Stay tuned!

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**Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!**

If you didn’t grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>.

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**Picture Day**

Picture Day is coming! **Lifetouch will be at the school on September 27 for student photos**, and we appreciate all of the volunteers who’ve signed up to help make this a successful experience. Volunteers will assist the photographers with keeping the children calm, ready to go, and looking photo-ready, as the process moves quickly. Please remember to check your time slot and a reminder will be sent out the day before.

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**Outdoor Learning Garden**

The Outdoor Learning Garden needs your help! **Come lend a hand to weed out the Outdoor Learning Garden on Thursday, September 28** from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm so our kids can enjoy planting in it this school year (please feel free to come for any portion of this time frame). The garden has become very overgrown and full of weeds, and work is needed to make it ready for students to plant, learn, and watch their minds and veggies grow. And don’t forget to bring your tools and your gloves! Rain date is TBD if needed.

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**ParentSquare**

Wilton Schools are now using Parent Square [www.parentsquare.com](http://www.parentsquare.com). This is a new platform to receive school communication (updates, newsletters, class info, etc.). Don’t miss out on information!

Once you join, go to notifications, and pick a preference of ways you want to receive information - what method of communication (text, email, or both), and how often (instant, daily). Emergency Alert will override all preferences (ex. Snow Day) and will alert you by text and email instantly.

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**AtoZ Connect**

The PTA has a new membership platform, **AtoZ Connect!** Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. Please register by going to <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/> or by downloading the app.

PTA memberships will be available soon. Each membership gives you one vote in the PTA and access to the directory. Stay tuned for more details!

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## **Wilton SEPTA**

Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help! Please see the link [HERE](#) to find out how you can help and future meeting dates.

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to stay updated with the latest meetings, news, and information. In preparation for the upcoming PPT, annual meeting, and transition meeting season, we will be sharing planning and organizing tips with families on collaborating with school teams.

- We invite teachers to take advantage of our [gifts and grants](#) program.
- Membership, Board, and Committee positions are open - it's not too late to join!
- We are seeking interested parents to help on our Community and Family Events Committee, including help for our April 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign.

## **Community News**

### **The Turnover Shop**

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at <https://turnovershopwilton.org/>.

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### **Wilton Land Trust**

Wilton Land Trust continues with its wonderful fall lineup to bring everyone closer to nature! Check out their listings below:

- 1. Wellness Walk:**  
September 26, 10:15 am - 12:30 pm  
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/wellness-walk/>
- 2. Trekking Together:**  
A Guided fall hike  
September 30, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/trekking-together-fall-2023/>
- 3. Create & Connect:**  
A Watercolor painting workshop  
September 30, 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm AGE 18+  
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/create-connect-2023/>

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### **YB Taekwondo**

YB Taekwondo was just added as a bus stop for Cider Mill this year!! It's a great option for parents looking for an after-school activity (**Tuesdays and Thursdays** until 4:00 pm). Please see the link to find out more and register! [www.ybworldtkd.com](http://www.ybworldtkd.com).

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**Bulb Sales to Support A Better Chance of Wilton**

Your purchase of bulbs, herb kits, and/or candles will support **A Better Chance of Wilton**. 50% of your sales will go back to the organization. You can buy bulbs for yourself or have them shipped to others as a gift!

Order Here: [Three Rivers Fundraising](#)

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**Dashing For Dylan - Kids Fun Run & Family Fun Day**

**Dashing for Dylan - Kids Fun Run & Family Fun Day** is happening on **Sunday October 1 at Crawford Park in Rye Brook** (25 minutes from Wilton) from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, and celebrates **Dylan Hoffman**, who lived his 3 short years in Wilton and was about to start Miller Driscoll. This event benefits the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley where Dylan's family stayed while he was in the hospital at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

Register Here: <https://rmh-ghv.org/index.php/events/dashing-for-dylan/>

Dylan's family still lives in Wilton and his sisters attend Cider Mill and Miller Driscoll. His family enjoys celebrating him each fall and giving back to the place that was so beneficial to them during Dylan's health crisis.

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**Ambler Farm**

The fall brings family fun and frights to Ambler Farm! Here's what's coming up:

**Ambler Farm Day:**

Families from Wilton and beyond descend upon the farm for our most pinnacle event of the year; a fall festival for all ages! We offer an array of activities to commemorate fall that the entire family will enjoy. Fan favorites include the Apple Slingshot, Haymaze, Build-Your-Own Scarecrow, Pumpkin Patch, Dunk-A-Local Celebrity and more! While the kiddos keep you on your feet, the Live Music will provide the perfect beat to a day of fun on the farm. No need to pack a lunch or snacks as we'll have concessions selling hot dogs, sandwiches and more! **Date: Sunday, October 1** from noon to 4:00 pm.

Here's the link to learn more about this festive day: <https://amblerfarm.org/event/ambler-farm-day/>

**Volunteers** are the backbone of this event and there are various ways to get involved before and during the event. Please click on the following link to sign up:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/842800450021/false#/invitation>

**Fright Night:**

Creepy sights and mysterious sounds abound when the moon rises at Ambler Farm. Join us for a not-too-frightful evening of spooky stories, a haunted hayride, and some sweet treats. This is a drop off program for children in grades 3rd-5th. **Enrollment is limited, advance registration required.**

Choose from one of four nights each running from 6:00 - 8:00 pm! Please note that parents/guardians may only sign up their OWN child(ren). Parents cannot sign up other children. Children are not permitted to wear costumes. This fun evening sells out quickly. Become a member to take advantage of securing a spot for your child now.

**Dates: Fridays, October 20 and 27, Saturdays, October 21 and 28;** cost is \$35/child.

Registration is now open to Members Only. Non-member registration opens October 6 subject to availability. Please click on the following link to register your child(ren) or create your account and join the Ambler Farm family: [https://amblerfarm.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login\\_m.php](https://amblerfarm.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login_m.php)

Please email [Kevin Meehan](#) with any questions.  
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## Woodcock Nature Center

The Woodcock Nature Center has something for everyone this fall! Here's what's happening now:

### **Woodcock After School Programs:**

[3-5 Afterschool | Woodcock Nature Center](#)

#### **Navigators**

Dive headfirst into nature and explore your fascination with the natural world! Through hiking, animal encounters, nature activities, and more, we'll enhance our understanding of nature as we appreciate and enjoy precious time spent outdoors! Learning will be guided by our observations as we play and explore.

**Tuesdays 4:15 - 5:45 pm through October 24**

#### **Earth Artists**

Do you love nature and art? Join the Earth Artists!

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature (and sometimes made from nature too!). **Wednesdays 4:15 - 5:45 pm through October 25**

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## Wilton Historical Society

**The 3rd Annual Great Wilton Pumpkin Fest will take place on Saturday, October 14** from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. It's fun for all ages with all things pumpkin! Play fall themed lawn games such as pumpkin bowling or pumpkin tic-tac-toe, join costumed colonial docents as they cook over an open hearth, weave on reproduction colonial looms, or hammer away in the blacksmith's forge, all while munching on complimentary cider and donuts. Visitors can also pick up their very own pumpkin to bring home! Browse the pumpkin patch of the Wilton Kiwanis club on the Society's front lawn and purchase the perfect one. Then head over to the pumpkin decorating station and put your creativity on display. Kiwanis will also have small gourds and mums on sale to help fill out your personal harvest display. New this year, explore and complete a scavenger hunt for hidden items and images scattered across the Society's grounds!

Wilton Historical Society members are free; non-members \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by purchasing ahead of time at [https://wiltonhistorical.org/events/event/the-3rd-annual-great-wilton-pumpkin-fest/](https://wiltonhistorical.org/events/event/the-3rd-annual-great-wilton-pumpkin-fest) or by calling 203-762-7257.

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## Wilton Youth Council

Wilton Youth Council offers the following upcoming programs:

**Wilton Youth Council presents Coffee - Community - Conversation on Friday, October 13** from 9:30 to 10:30 am at Tusk & Cup, Wilton (located at 142 Danbury Road). Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

### **Author Talk: "Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - and What We Can Do About It" with Jennifer Wallace**

**October 17** at 7:00 pm

Wilton Library

In the ever more competitive race to secure the best possible future, today's students face unprecedented pressure to succeed. Their schedules are packed with AP classes and resume-padding activities, while family resources are stretched to a breaking point by tutoring fees and athletic schedules. Yet this drive to optimize performance has only resulted in skyrocketing rates of anxiety, depression, and even self-harm in America's highest achieving schools. It does not need to be this way.

Join us for a discussion led by Susan Bauerfeld PhD, with award-winning reporter Jennifer Breheny Wallace, on the deep roots of toxic achievement culture, and what we must do to fight back. Through

deep research, some of which was conducted here in Wilton and highlights our local youth activists, Wallace reveals what kids need from adults is not more pressure, but to feel like they matter.

**A follow-up book discussion group with Wilton Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Smith, will be held on Thursday, October 26, 10:00 -11:30 am at Comstock Community Center. Stay tuned for registration information.**

Jennifer Wallace is an award-winning reporter, social commentator and author. She frequently contributes to The Wall Street Journal and Washington Post. To learn more about this important topic visit: [www.jenniferwallace.com](http://www.jenniferwallace.com)

This program is brought to you by [Wilton Library](#), [Wilton Youth Council](#), [Susan Bauerfeld](#), and [Thrive with a Guide](#).

Register at <https://wiltonlibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar?df=calendar>.

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### Wilton Chamber of Commerce

In partnership with ASML and the Town of Wilton, **the Wilton Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of the much-anticipated Pumpkin Parade and Trick or Treating in Wilton Center on Saturday, October 28** from 2:00 - 4:00 pm!

With the support of our event sponsor, ASML, all are invited to dress up and don their Halloween best as they gather treats throughout Wilton Center. Join us for some frightful fun and gather at the gazebo as we feature *spooktacular* interactive games and activities for the whole family this year!

Enjoy some howling good music with our band and plenty of entertainment as the Town Green and Wilton Center is transformed into a (not so) scary gathering place, featuring our participating local businesses and non-profit organizations as they hand out sweet treats for the ghouls, goblins, prince and princesses trick or treating that afternoon!

This is a RAIN or SHINE event.

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### Improve Your Academics

All Wilton School District students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are fellow Wilton High School students.

Please fill out this [FORM](#) if you need help in any subject. For more information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#). **Tutoring available in person and virtually for grades 6+, virtually only for 3rd-5th graders.**

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### IvyMath

#### **Is Your Child on Track in Math?**

<https://ivymath.com/> is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level. IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year. The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Signup now at: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://ivymath.com/Boost)**

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## **NAMI-CAN WILTON**

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. **The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN)** is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues.

The meeting is free, confidential, safe, and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely, find resources and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and towns in the surrounding area. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Our remaining fall meetings are **Monday October 2 and Monday November 6 over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>  
Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

For the password and more information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com).

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## **NAMI-Basics**

NAMI-Basics is a FREE six-week program that allows families to connect to one another while learning about mental illness, its impact on children and adolescents, strategies to deal with schools and providers, and tools to empower parents/caregivers to overcome new challenges.

This program is for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents with a diagnosis of mental illness or in the process of getting an evaluation with diverse and complex needs.

<https://namisouthwestct.org>

**In person - Tuesdays 9:30 am to noon - October 3 to November 7**  
**Darien Depot, 25 Heights Road, Darien, CT**

To register, email Karen at [mkarwest@hotmail.com](mailto:mkarwest@hotmail.com)  
or Evan at [epagano@me.com](mailto:epagano@me.com)

**Submit News to Hot Cider**

Danielle Michalisin at [micdch72@gmail.com](mailto:micdch72@gmail.com)

Melissa Reynolds at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com)

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is October 5, 2023.  
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on October 9, 2023

*Content may be edited at the discretion of editors. To keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice.*